

Message Text

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44

ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3701

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GEORGETOWN 2281

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOV, PINT, GYP

SUBJECT: ARREST AND TRIAL OF OPPOSITION LEADER EUSI KWAYANA

SUMMARY: A PROMINENT BLACK OPPOSITION LEADER, EUSI KWAYANA, HAS BEEN ARRESTED BY THE GOG. KWAYANA AND HIS CO-DEFENDENTS REPRESENT A COALITION OF OPPOSITION PARTIES AND CLAIM THAT PROSECUTION OF THEM FOR ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF THE PUBLICATIONS AND NEWSPAPERS ACT IS POLITICALLY MOTIVATED AND REPRESENTS GOG INFRINGEMENT OF CIVIL LIBERTIES. THE TRIAL IS EXPECT TO ATTRACT CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION AND IS ALREADY A SENSITIVE ISSUE FOR BURNHAM. END SUMMARY.

1. EUSI KWAYANA, AKA SIDNEY KING, HEAD OF THE AFRICAN SOCIET FOR CULTURAL RELATIONS WITH INDEPENDENT AFSICA (ASCRIA), WA ARRESTED ON NOVEMEBER 10 WHILE PICKETING IN FRONT OF THE GEORGETOWN MAGISTRATE'S COURT. A WARRANT WAS ISSUED FOR KWAYANA'S ARREST AFTER HE HAD FAILED TO APPEAR AT THREE PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED HEARINGS.

2. KWAYANA, ALONG WITH BRINDLEY BEEN AND THELMA
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REECE, IS ACCUSED OF VIOLATION OF THE PUBLICATIONS

AND NEWSPAPERS ACT BY PUBLISHING THE NEWSPAPER "DAYCLEAN" WITHOUT POSTING THE \$5,000 BOND REQUIRED PRIOR TO PUBLICATION OF ANY NEWSPAPER. "DAYCLEAN" IS THE ORGAN OF THE WORKING PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE (WPA), WHICH INCLUDES ASCRIA AND UNTIL RECENTLY INCLUDED THE WORKING PEOPLE'S VANGUARD PARTY (WPVP) HEADED BY BENN.

3. AT THE PRELIMINARY HEARING, KWAYANA REFUSED A \$500 BAIL. HE MAINTAINED THAT MAGISTRATE ALEXANDER SHOULD NOT TRY THE CASE BECAUSE THERE WAS A LIKELIHOOD OF BIAS AS A RESULT OF STATEMENTS MADE BY ALEXANDER IN A PREVIOUS CASE.

4. AT THE COMMENCEMENT OF HIS TRIAL, KWAYANA ISSUED A STATEMENT WHICH CONDEMNED QUOTE THE CONSTITUTIONAL VIOLENCE OF THE GOVERNMENT AGAINST THE PEOPLE UNQUOTE. PROCLAIMING HIMSELF A CONSCIENTIOUS REPUBLICAN, KWAYANA ALLEGED THAT THE PNC GOVERNMENT PRACTICES RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AGAINST THE NUMERICALLY DOMINANT EAST INDIAN COMMUNITY. HE CALLED FOR ABROGATION OF THE GUYANA-U.S. TREATY OF MAY 26, 1966, AS A RESPONSE TO THE CUBAN DISASTER AND CITED THE HYPOCRISY OF A GOVERNMENT WHICH CONDEMNS SOUTH AFRICA WHILE AT THE SAME TIME IT TRADES WITH THAT COUNTRY.

5. KWAYANA AND HIS CO-DEFENDENTS ARE REPRESENTED BY A BATTERY OF 12 LAWYERS, INCLUDING SEVERAL FROM VARIOUS CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES. THE WPA HAS STATED THAT ITS DECISION TO INVOLVE CARIBBEAN LAWYERS IN THE CASE IS CONSISTENT WITH ITS EMPHASIS QUOTE ON THE NEED TO STRENGTHEN CARIBBEAN SOLIDARITY IN THE STRUGGLE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS IN THE REGION UNQUOTE. KWAYANA HAS ISSUED PUBLIC STATEMENTS CLAIMING THAT THE CHARGES AGAINST HIM ARE POLITICALLY MOTIVATED AND THAT PROSECUTION IS BEING DIRECTED AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF THE PNC. SINCE TRIAL BEGAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ON NOVEMBER 10, THERE HAVE BEEN DEMONSTRATIONS BY KWAYANA SUPPORTERS BOTH IN AND OUT OF THE COURTROOM.

6. A PUBLIC MEETING OF OCTOBER 27 FOCUSED ON THE RECENT GOG ACTIONS AGAINST THE WPA. AT THE MEETING, UG LECTURER CLIVE THOMAS CALLED ATTENTION TO VIOLATIONS OF CIVIL LIBERTIES AS

DEMONSTRATED IN THE CHARGES AGAINST KWAYANA. PPP LEADER CHEDDI JAGAN SPOKE IN SUPPORT OF KWAYANA AND MAINTAINED THAT IMPORT LICENSE CONTROLS PLACED ON THE PPP ORGAN "MIRROR" WERE PART OF A PATTERN OF VIOLATIONS OF CIVIL LIBERTIES. DR. WALTER RODNEY SPOKE ON THE QUOTE MILITARISATION OF THE NATION UNQUOTE.

7. COMMENT: KWAYANA IS A WELL-KNOWN POLITICAL ACTIVITS AND A SIGNIFICANT BLACK LEADER. THE GOVERNMENT'S CASE AGAINST HIM HAS COALESCED VARIOUS OPPOSITION GROUPS INTO A TEMPORARILY UNITED FRONT CENTERED ON THE ISSUE OF VIOLATIONS OF CIVIL LIBERTIES.

8. THE TRIAL OF KWAYANA IS PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE FOR PM BURNHAM BECAUSE KWAYANA WAS FORMERLY ALLIED CLOSELY WITH THE PNC. HE IS CONSIDERED STRONGLY PRO-AFRO-GUYANESE AS WELL AS PROSOCIALIST AND ANTI-U.S. KWAYANA, WHICH MEANS "BLACK MAN OF GUYANA," IS BOTH A SCHOLAR AND ACTIVITS. IN 1964, DURING THE RACIAL CONFLICTS BETWEEN BLACKS AND EAST INDIANS, KWAYANA, THEN KNOWN AS SIDNEY KING, GAVE WHOLE-HEARTED SUPPORT TO BURNMHAM. HE SERVED AS EDITOR OF THE PNC PARTY PAPER AND AS HEAD OF THE NATIONAL MARKETING CORPORATION. ASCRIA WAS ALLIED WITH THE PNC BUT PUBLICLY SPLIT WITH BURNHAM'S PARTY IN 1973. KWAYANA MAINTAINED THAT THE PNC HAD NEITHER IMPROVED THE ECONOMIC POSITION OF AFRO-GUYANESE NOR SET HIGH STANDARDS OF EFFICIENT ADMINISTRATION. AFTREER BREAKING WITH BURNHAM IN 1973, KWAYANA LED HIS ASCRIA INTO A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COLATION WITH THREE OTHER LEFTIST ORIENTED OPPOSITION ORGANIZATIONS: THE INDIAN POLITICAL REVOLUTIONARY ASSOCIATES (IPRA), THE WORKING PEOPLE'S VANGUARD PARTY (WPVP) AND RATOON. MCCOY

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